

Tennessee's birth data supplies information that is useful to health professionals in the implementation of research and programs to improve the health of both mothers and babies. The prenatal period can be the beginning of a lifetime of good health, or it can be the start of years of illness, impairment, and shortened life expectancy. Low birthweight can be linked to various risk factors that include developmental delay, respiratory distress syndrome, and congenital anomalies.

Early and comprehensive prenatal care can reduce rates of infant deaths and low birthweight. Educating women on the effects of maternal risk factors such as poor nutrition, cigarette smoking, and alcohol and drug usage is an important tool in the strategy for healthier babies.

Maternal age is a risk factor for both under 18 years of age and 40 years and older. Adolescents are at particular risk of having low birthweight babies. Babies born to adolescent mothers are also at higher risk to live in poverty, because these mothers are more likely to drop out of school and less likely to attend college. Women over age 40 also are at risk for low birthweight and higher rates of births with congenital anomalies.

By studying birth trends and maternal factors, health providers are better able to identify problem areas and establish intervention programs and services for high-risk infants. Reductions of adolescent birth rates have been accomplished in recent years with the aide of the adolescent pregnancy prevention programs established by the Tennessee Department of Health. These prevention programs promote community awareness and involvement in teen pregnancy issues, provide abstinence education, and expand services available to pregnant and parenting adolescents.

More detailed county level birth data may be obtained by contacting the Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics and Research or by visiting our website at the address below.

Please visit the Tennessee Department of Health website:
<http://www.state.tn.us/health>

2001 Total Population 5,740,021	2001 White Population 4,611,024	2001 Black Population 934,694
2001 Total Female (10-17) Population 310,919	2001 White Female (10-17) Population 234,015	2001 Black Female (10-17) Population 65,372

NOTE: The population estimates for Tennessee used to calculate the rates in this report were based on figures prepared from the 2000 census on May 31, 2001 by Health Statistics and Research. These population figures were based on updated county total estimates, and may result in rates that differ from those previously published.

Report of Tennessee Births 2001

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF HEALTH
INFORMATICS
HEALTH STATISTICS
AND RESEARCH

INTRODUCTION

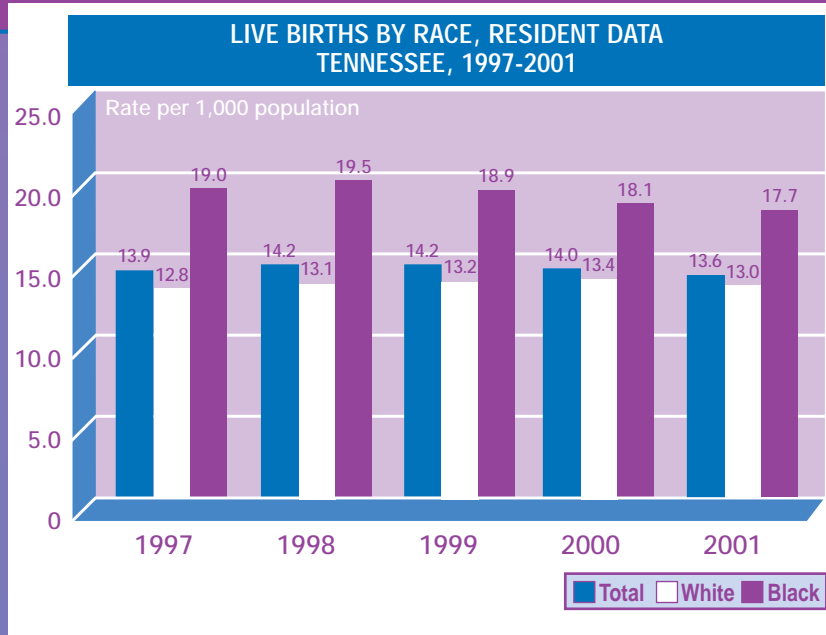
REPORT OF TENNESSEE BIRTHS 2001

provides information on final birth data for state residents. Resident data includes events that occurred to residents of the state irrespective of where the events took place. Certificates filed with the Office of Vital Records supplied the data for this report. Copies of certificates occurring to Tennessee residents in other states are forwarded to Tennessee in the interstate transfer of these certificates.

TENNESSEE'S TOTAL BIRTH TREND INDICATES A GRADUAL DECLINE SINCE THE 1940'S WHEN THE RATES WERE AT RECORD HIGHS. The 2001 total birth rate dropped to a new low of 13.6 per 1,000 population, decreasing 2.9 percent from the rate in 2000. The 2001 white rate (13.0) decreased 3.0 percent from the previous year, while the 2001 black rate of 17.7 was the lowest for five-year period 1997-2001. From 1992 to 2001, Tennessee's total birth and adolescent birth rates decreased. Births rates for unmarried women, low-weight births, and multiple births all increased during the same period.

IN 2001, THERE WERE 78,318 TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS TO TENNESSEE RESIDENTS. Of the total, 59,945 or 76.5 percent were white and 16,576 or 21.2 percent were black. There were 3,627 births to females ages 10-17 combined. This number represented a 9.0 percent decrease from the previous year for this age group. There were 7,260 births to females 35 years and older. Births for this age group decreased 3.8 percent from the previous year.

IN 2001, THE PERCENT OF TOTAL BIRTHS WITH ADEQUATE CARE WAS 70.5, AN INCREASE OF 4.4 PERCENT OVER 67.5 IN 1992. In 2001, the percent of births with inadequate care (5.7) remained the same as in 1992, while the percent of total births with no care increased 14.3 percent from 1.4 to 1.6 for the same period. The percent of births with adequate care increased for both whites and blacks over the ten-year period. Blacks had the highest percentage of births with no care, 3.8 for 2001, an increase of 8.6 percent over 3.5 in 1992.



NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS BY AGE AND RACE OF MOTHER RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 2001			
Age Groups	Total	White	Black
Total	78,318	59,945	16,576
10-14 years . . .	215	99	113
15-17 years . . .	3,412	2,165	1,206
18-19 years . . .	7,393	5,176	2,123
20-24 years . . .	23,886	17,395	6,120
25-34 years . . .	35,889	29,013	5,822
35-44 years . . .	7,207	5,809	1,172
45+ years	53	43	8
Unknown	263	245	12

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF BIRTHS BY ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE AND RACE OF MOTHER RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 2001						
	Total Number	Percent	White Number	Percent	Black Number	Percent
Total	78,318	100.0	59,945	100.0	16,576	100.0
Adequate . .	55,184	70.5	45,003	75.1	9,019	54.4
Intermediate . .	17,426	22.3	11,540	19.3	5,424	32.7
Inadequate . . .	4,443	5.7	2,802	4.7	1,501	9.1
No care	1,265	1.6	600	1.0	632	3.8

Percentages for care are derived from criteria defined in the Kessner Index, which classifies prenatal care on the basis of the number of prenatal visits, gestational age, and the trimester care began. In addition to the specific number of visits indicated for inadequate care, all women who started their care during the third trimester (28 weeks or later) were considered to have received inadequate care.

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF BIRTHS BY WEIGHT AND RACE OF MOTHER RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 2001						
	Total Number	Percent	White Number	Percent	Black Number	Percent
Total	78,318	100.0	59,945	100.0	16,576	100.0
Under 2500 grams	7,235	9.2	4,816	8.0	2,264	13.7
1-1499	1,347	1.7	807	1.3	525	3.2
1500-2499 . . .	5,888	7.5	4,009	6.7	1,739	10.5
2500+ grams . .	71,071	90.7	55,126	92.0	14,312	86.3

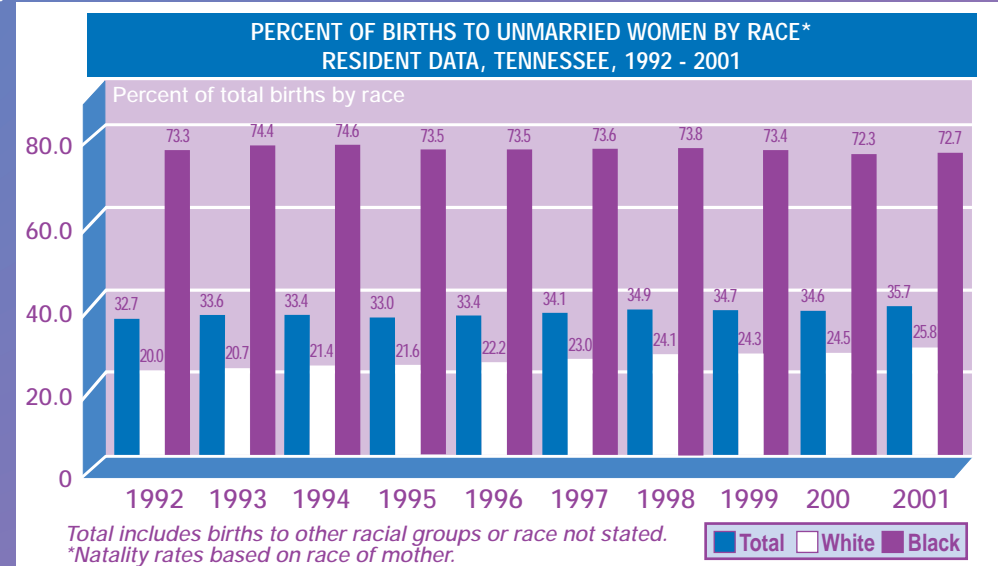
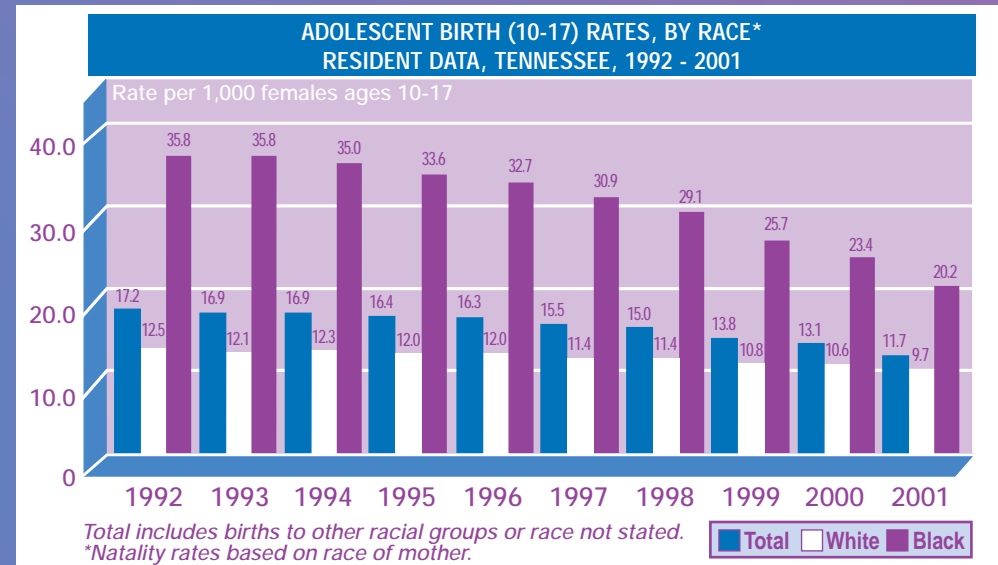
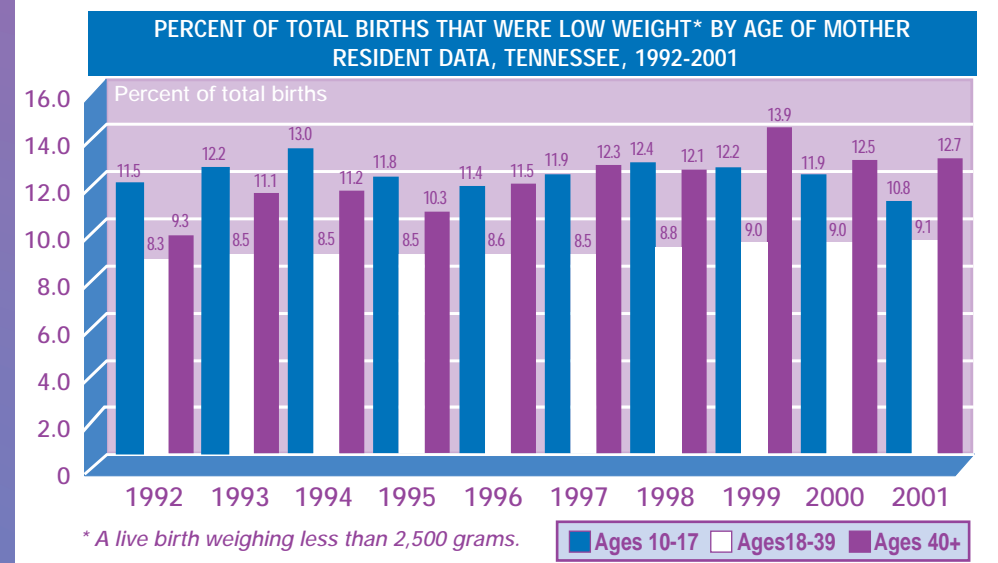
IN 2001, 7,235 LOW BIRTHWEIGHT (LESS THAN 2,500 GRAMS) INFANTS WERE BORN. The low weight percentage of 9.2 occurring in 1999-2001 was the highest for the ten-year period 1992-2001. In 1992, 2.4 percent of total births were multiple births, but this percentage increased to 3.1 by 2001. Of the total multiple births in 2001, 64.1 percent were low weight. This was a 12.9 percent increase over the 56.8 percent low weight multiple births in 1992.

ADOLESCENTS (10-17) AND MOTHERS AGED 40 YEARS AND OLDER FACE A GREATER RISK OF HAVING LOW WEIGHT BABIES (LESS THAN 2,500 GRAMS). In 2001, the low-weight percentage of total births to mothers 10-17 was 10.8. This was 6.1 percent lower than in 1992. The percent of total births that were low birthweight for mothers 40 years and older (12.7) increased 36.6 percent over the same time period.

ADOLESCENT BIRTHS (10-17) BY RACE REVEALED THE HIGHEST RATES PER 1,000 FEMALES WERE FOR BLACKS. In 2001, the black adolescent birth rate of 20.2 was almost twice as high as the total adolescent birth rate of 11.7. The total birth rate for adolescents declined from 1992 to a ten-year low in 2001. The rates for whites (9.7) and blacks (20.2) also dropped to the lowest rates for the period 1992-2001. Teen pregnancy prevention programs are making important contributions in the decline of adolescent birth rates.

NUMBER OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED FEMALES BY AGE WITH PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BIRTHS BY AGE RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 2001						
Age Groups	Total Number	Percent	White Number	Percent	Black Number	Percent
Total	27,961	35.7	15,464	25.8	12,049	72.7
10-14 years . . .	210	97.7	94	94.9	113	100.0
15-17 years . . .	2,936	86.0	1,701	78.6	1,199	99.4
18-19 years . . .	5,187	70.2	3,094	59.8	2,020	95.1
20-24 years . . .	11,477	48.0	6,222	35.8	5,089	83.2
25-34 years . . .	6,930	19.3	3,695	12.7	3,092	53.1
35-44 years . .	1,156	16.0	604	10.4	526	44.9
45+ years . . .	11	20.8	6	14.0	5	62.5

THE PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED FEMALES BY AGE SHOWED THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGES WERE FOR FEMALES AGES 10-14 AND 15-17. In 2001, 99.5 percent of the black births to females ages 10-17 combined were to unmarried women, while 79.3 percent were to unmarried white females. The percentages declined as the age of mother increased with the exception of blacks aged 45 years and older. The negative effects of births to unmarried adolescents include social and economic consequences resulting from the interruption of schooling. These economic consequences are reflected in costs that are often supported by public assistance programs.



THE PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED WOMEN BY RACE AND YEAR FOR THE PERIOD 1992 TO 2001 SHOWED THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGES FOR BLACK WOMEN. The total percent of births to unmarried women increased 9.2 percent from 1992 to 2001, while the percent for whites increased 29.0 percent. The black percentage fluctuated throughout the ten years. The percent of 72.7 in 2001 was 0.8 percent lower than the percent in 1992.